

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Miyashita (US 5,397,883) in view of Nakajima (US 5,408,531). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as set forth below.

The non-narrowing amendments to claims 1, 2, and 3 are believed to overcome the indefiniteness rejections thereto.

The Examiner alleges that Miyashita discloses an automatic ticket-examining gate apparatus and reading magnetic heads 24 and 26. However, Miyashita discloses in column 4, lines 14-36, that the magnetic stripe is provided on the front or back surface, depending on which way the pass 12 is inserted into the apparatus. As shown in FIG. 4, the directions of the magnetic heads 24 and 26 are clearly different from each other. Therefore, Miyashita does not teach or suggest that the two magnetic heads are arranged in the card moving direction, as recited in claims 1 and 4 of the present invention.

Furthermore, only one of the magnetic heads 24 or 26 reads magnetic data from the pass 12, each time the pass 12 is inserted. Hence, Miyashita directly conflicts with the present invention. That is, claims 1 and 4 of the present invention require that the two magnetic heads be arranged in a direction in which each of the magnetic heads moves with respect to the magnetic card and each of the magnetic heads takes the same data from the magnetic card. Since the magnetic heads of Miyashita are on opposite sides of the path of the pass 12, only one of the magnetic heads 24 and 26 reads the data from the pass 12. Thus, Miyashita fails to disclose two magnetic heads taking the same data, as required by claims 1 and 4 of the present invention.

Also, Nakajima fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Miyashita.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 4 are believed to be in form for allowance, for at least the reasons noted above. Also, claims 2 and 3 and claim 5 are believed to be allowable, at least because of their dependence from claims 1 and 4, respectively.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/765,378

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A magnetic card reader [adapted to make] for making a magnetic card and at least one magnetic head to relatively move with respect to each other and [also adapted to demodulate] for demodulating data, which is recorded on said magnetic card and obtained by said magnetic head, said magnetic card reader comprising:

two magnetic heads arranged in a direction, in which each of said magnetic heads relatively moves with respect to said magnetic card, and [adapted to take] taking the same data from said magnetic card and [to obtain] obtaining two demodulated data;

an error detecting portion for detecting an error in at least one of the two demodulated data; and

an error correcting portion for correcting the error, which is detected by said error detecting portion, by using the other demodulated data.

2. (Amended) The magnetic card reader according to claim 1, wherein said error correcting portion [is adapted to correct] corrects errors, which occur in the demodulated data, character by character.

3. (Amended) The magnetic card reader according to claim 2, wherein said error detecting portion [is adapted to detect] detects whether or not a parity of the modulated data corresponding to each character is correct.